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Dr. Jane Henney
Commissioner
U.S. FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 1471
Rockville, MD
20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I'm sure you are familiar with reports of antibiotic resistant bacteria. As you have heard, 90% of Staphylococcus aureus infections are now resistant to penicillin and now a vancomycin-resistant strain (which was the last working antibiotic for Staph) has emerged. There is ample evidence that the indiscriminate use of antibiotics is encouraging the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria. As you know, doctors are prescribing antibiotics for colds (for which they are totally ineffective). Also, far too many patients stop taking their antibiotics prematurely, which also creates drug-resistant bacteria. **I urge the FDA to help educate doctors and their patients to not misuse antibiotics, such that antibiotics will continue to work when they are truly needed.**

I am quite concerned that farmers are using antibiotics to promote growth in animals and prevent (rather than treat disease). I understand that the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization are strongly opposed to the routine, non-essential use of antibiotics in animals, because of the dangers of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. European governments have already banned the use of four antibiotics in animal feed. Although I understand that agribusiness (and the pharmaceutical industry) wishes to continue using human antibiotics in animal feeds, I am sure that you would agree that human health and safety should take priority. **I strongly urge the FDA to ban the use of human antibiotics in animal feeds. We risk losing the benefits of being able to treat bacterial infections in humans if we continue to use antibiotics for the convenience of agribusiness.**

Sincerely,


Joseph VanAndel

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